

investment in underserved rural and inner-city areas. I am pleased to announce that today bipartisan legislation based upon my new markets initiative is being introduced in both the House and the Senate. This legislation expands upon the innovative approach to community empowerment that Vice President Gore and I have pioneered for nearly 7 years.

We need to provide the same encouragement to invest in Appalachia, Native American reservations, the Mississippi Delta, and the inner cities that we provide today to invest in new markets overseas. Through new tax incentives and investment tools, this legislation will help to attract equity capital that entrepreneurs and businesses need to start and expand enterprises

and create new jobs in low and moderate income communities. These tools will help corporate America to develop new markets in places where major corporations have rarely, if ever, looked before. It's good for business; it's good for America's growth; and it's the right thing to do.

I am encouraged by the bipartisan support for the new markets initiative, as demonstrated by the lead sponsorship of this legislation by both Democrats and Republicans. We will continue to work with Congress to pass this new markets legislation into law. At a time of remarkable economic prosperity, we need to ensure that no community or person is left behind.

Statement on Proposed Patients' Bill of Rights Legislation

August 5, 1999

With today's announcement led by Drs. Ganske and Norwood and Congressman Dingell, it is clear that there is now a bipartisan majority of House Members ready to vote for a strong and enforceable Patients' Bill of Rights. Unlike the partisan Senate-passed bill, this bipartisan initiative is a Patients' Bill of Rights not just in name but in reality. It provides meaningful patient protections to all Americans in all health

plans, and it holds plans accountable when their actions cause harm to patients.

Today's action proves that patient protections need not and should not be a partisan issue. It is time to do what this bipartisan coalition has done, put the well-being of patients before politics and special interests. I call on Speaker Hastert to schedule a vote on this long-overdue legislation immediately upon return from the congressional recess in September.

Statement on Proposed Juvenile Crime Legislation

August 5, 1999

Months after the tragedy at Columbine and the day before they are set to recess, Congress will finally begin the conference on juvenile crime legislation. Let's show our children that, when it comes to their safety, Washington will not take a break. I urge the conferees to stay in Washington and finish work on the bill during the August recess. This is a vital opportunity to take commonsense steps to keep guns out

of the wrong hands, prevent youth violence, and steer young people away from crime. They should send me a balanced and bipartisan juvenile crime bill, with the Senate-passed gun provisions, so we can give our Nation's parents more peace of mind as our children return to school.